

## **Arbor Day: Week of April 16-21, 2007**

Carmel held its 19<sup>th</sup> annual Arbor Day Celebration at 10:30 a.m. on Saturday, April 21<sup>st</sup> at Central Park, 1235 Central Park Drive East. The day began with a volunteer planting demonstration at 8:30 a.m., followed by a planting at 9:30 a.m. and the Arbor Day Celebration and Woodland Garden dedication at 10:30 a.m.

The Carmel Clay Parks & Recreation Department, Citizens for Greenspace (non-profit), the City of Carmel's Urban Forestry Committee, along with the Carmel Boy and Girl Scouts all partnered together for the 2007 Arbor Day Celebration Tree Planting. Last year 250 trees were planted in the northwest portion of the newly constructed 161-acre Central Park. As part of this year's celebration, 201 trees were planted by volunteers in the northeast corner of Central Park to continue reforestation efforts within urban areas of the City.

More than 1,000 volunteers from the community helped with the plantings, which was done throughout the week of April 16<sup>th</sup> and on the morning of April 21<sup>st</sup>.

"The Arbor Day Celebration and planting is a wonderful way to bring together residents and their children in Carmel parks, but it also benefits the community for decades to come by increasing the tree canopy," said Mayor Jim Brainard.

The Donna Manlove Excellence in Urban Forestry Award and the Carmel Commercial Beautification Award were presented during the Arbor Day ceremony to JC Sipe Jewelers for their 96th street store location and Pam Louks the Indiana Community & Urban Forestry Coordinator. The City of Carmel received its 13<sup>th</sup> consecutive annual Tree City USA and 11th consecutive Tree Growth Award. The ceremony featured the reading of the official Arbor Day Proclamation by Mayor Brainard.

The Tree City USA program is designed to recognize communities that effectively manage their public tree resources and encourage the implementation of community tree management. Carmel has been a Tree City USA since 1994, and has been awarded 11 Tree Growth Awards for special projects from the National Arbor Day Foundation.

"The Arbor Day Proclamation and ceremony help remind Carmel citizens of our commitment to urban forestry and to the great importance of trees to the community as a whole," expressed Scott Brewer, Carmel's City Forester.

Sponsors of Carmel's Arbor Day Celebration and Woodland Garden Dedication include: Will Wright Building Corp., Express Graphics, Nelson & Frankenberger and Vine & Branch. The ceremonies and tree planting were filmed and will be shown on Carmel's Government Cable Channel 16 during the month of May.

For more information about volunteering and sponsorships for the future, please contact Sue Maki at (317) 571-2486.

Here are some photos of that event:



